

Indiana's Stellar Communities Program

**Finalist Workshop
April 11, 2014**





Agenda

- Welcome
- Presentation
- Q&A
- Overview of CIFI
- Break
- One on One Technical Assistance
- Adjourn

Stellar Communities



2014 Finalist Communities



2011-2013 Stellar Communities



Indianapolis



Strategic Investment Plan (SIP)

- Planning Grant Agreement
- SIP submittal
 - June 6th by 5PM at OCRA Office
 - 8 Color Copies; 1 Electronic
- Site Visits
 - June 23rd thru July 18th
- Award Announcements
 - Tentatively August 4th-8th
- Community Celebrations
 - Tentatively August 11th-22nd

Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) Planning Grant

- Planning Grants will be made available to Finalists for the purpose of preparing and submitting the Strategic Investment Plan for your community.
- Planning Grant Amounts
 - First-time Finalist - \$10,000.00
 - Repeat Finalist - \$5,000.00
- Award Letters along with Grant Agreements will be sent out to the applicants April 25th. Signed agreements must be returned to IHCD within 10 business days.
- Grants are funded on a reimbursement basis. Draws/Requests for reimbursement are sent directly to IHCD (Draw instruction included with Award Letter and Grant Agreement).
- Grant Funds must be drawn within six months of grant execution.



Strategic Investment Plan (SIP)

- The **Strategic Investment Plan (SIP)** is a multi-year plan produced by a local government and identifies capital projects to be funded during this period.
 - Clearly identifies the community's needs, goals and financial capabilities;
 - Creates awareness for effective local planning;
 - Enhances cooperation and communication throughout the community and region; and
 - Serves to increase local government's financial stability.



Stellar Community SIP Evaluation

The evaluation of Stellar Finalist Strategic Investment Plans will include a review of several criteria to select the two 2014 Stellar Community designees.

All proposals will be scored by an inter-agency team composed of staff from OCRA, IHCD and INDOT. Once scored, recommendation will be finalized by the Executive teams at the participating agencies.



Stellar Community SIP Evaluation Criteria

- Is there a regional impact?
- Is there a visual impact?
- Will the project include a comprehensive community impact?
- Do the projects fit within a four-year investment strategy?



Stellar Community SIP Evaluation Criteria

- Is the amount budgeted for the project adequate?
- Do the projects leverage additional resources?
- Does the community illustrate the capacity of development team to implement a multi-project plan?



Stellar Community SIP Evaluation Criteria

- Does the SIP include long-term viability?
- Does the SIP meet the requirements?
- Do you have projects that are fundable through the partners?
- Is the vision community driven?



Stellar Community SIP Evaluation Criteria

- Will the projects attract or retain people to live in community?
- Is the plan dynamic and unique?
- Have you addressed the feasibility of the completing the projects?
- Do you have outstanding findings or problems on recent or current projects?



Site Visit Ground Rules

- Critical piece to this program
- No longer than 3 hours
- Keep relevant to projects in the SIP
 - Complementary projects can be mentioned.
- No meals or reception
- Light refreshments as appropriate
- No gifts
- Community project focused



Site Visit Structure

- Welcome & Introductions (Community)
- Introductions (State Team)
- Overview of projects (Community)
- Q&A (Project Development Team and State Team)
- Break (no longer than 15 minutes)
- Site Tour
- Adjourn



Benefits of the Process

- Raises the level of conversation in your community
 - With community partners
 - With state agencies
- Creation of the Strategic Investment Plan



From Our Experience...

- The plan should be community driven.
- The designation and the plan are not guarantees of the funding.
- We are your partners.
- Need flexibility on your end and ours.
- Projects may have to be tweaked during the process.
- The Stellar Communities Program will look different in 2015.



Reminders & Disclaimers

- THIS IS NOT A GRANT APPLICATION!!
- Just because its in the plan doesn't mean it will be funded
- Work with each designee individually to determine project funding
- Applications will be required for each project by the funding partner
- All federal requirements of the funding source are applicable
- You will be ineligible for funds in the normal competitive process of partner agencies for 3 years from designation
- Ongoing reporting on outcomes and measures
- THIS IS HARD WORK!



Stellar Reminders

Reminders:

- April 25th Planning agreements sent
- May 9th Planning agreements due
- June 6th Due date!!!
- 8 Color Copies; 1 Electronic
- Site visits to be scheduled soon





Q & A



INDIANA OFFICE OF
Community & Rural Affairs
Where Rural Matters





Email Contact Information

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